Email and V-SAT communications. The local authorities are prepared for rescue and relief work and evacuation of people to safer places in the event of a natural disaster.

Wastage of food items

†576. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average, food items worth 13 billion dollars go waste/unutilized annually;

(b) if not, the estimate of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this loss can be prevented having a food processing system in place;

(d) if so, the details thereof and maximum extent of the loss which can be prevented; and

(e) the amount required for preventing this maximum loss by setting up the processing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming; provisions in Agricultural produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

A Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which envisages, *inter-alia*, cluster

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

based and demand driven farming, achieving integration of food processing infrastructure from farm to market, promoting a dynamic food processing industry which could result in trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. Under the Vision 2015, the thrust areas identified for strategic intervention are establishing Mega Food Parks, Modernization of abattoirs, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), enacting Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, upgrading safety and quality of street food and establishment/ upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories, Government has identified strategies along with a detailed action plan in this regard to realize the Vision 2015. An estimated investment of Rs. 100,000 crores is required to achieve the Vision 2015.

Food Processing Units in Sikkim

577. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to set up food processing industry in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made by Government to set up food processing units in Sikkim during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and up to 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to various implementing agencies for the overall development of Food Processing Industry. Further, enhanced level of assistance (credit-linked back ended) for setting up/upgradation/ modernization of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Units is available for all